



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES**

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TO: All Department for Medicaid Services Staff

FROM: Shannon R. Turner, J.D.
Commissioner

DATE: September 2, 2005

SUBJECT: Hurricane Katrina and Medicaid

The recent natural disaster in the Gulf Coast has left many displaced persons in need of medical care, among other essential services. As these individuals seek shelter in Kentucky, many of them will turn to the Department for Medicaid Services for assistance.

Many medically needy persons arriving in Kentucky will be supported directly by FEMA. On occasion FEMA has provided individuals assistance in obtaining Medicaid benefits from their home state. We are investigating the possibility of partnering with FEMA to enroll displaced persons in the Medicaid programs of his or her state. The Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) may also be asked to assist in obtaining out-of-State Medicaid eligibility enrollment for individuals who do not intend to reside in Kentucky, but that is still under discussion. If a former Gulf Coast resident displaced by Hurricane Katrina decides to stay in Kentucky, DCBS may process a Medicaid application using limited verification.

Medical providers who provide services to individuals who have Medicaid coverage from Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi, will be paid based on the out-of-state coverage policies established by the Medicaid programs in those states. The DMS website contains additional information regarding provider enrollment in the affected states, <http://chfs.ky.gov/dms>. For additional information, please contact, Kentucky Medicaid, Division of Claims Management, Recipient Claims Assistance Branch at 1-800-635-2570.

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